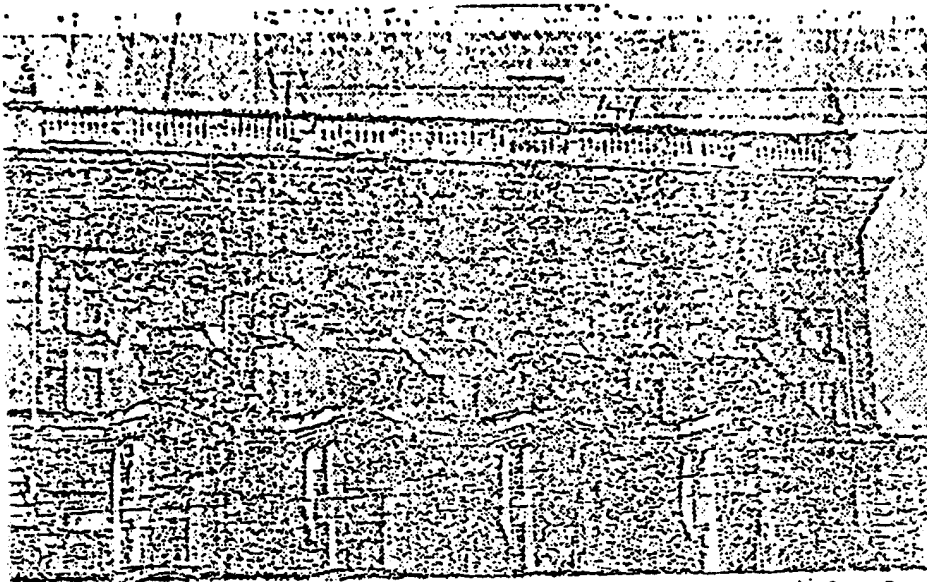


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Camera Press

Embassy on Tchaikovsky Street, Moscow. Antennas are barely visible from below.

Moscow Rays Linked to U.S. Bugging

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of The New York Times

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Officials have previously conceded that microwaves have been beamed at the American Embassy in Moscow, but they justified the activity as a harmless jamming of American listening devices on the roof of the building.

State and Administration sources said today that, while denying for some time that there had been microwave emissions, Soviet officials recently conceded

the existence. Soviet diplomats have discussed the matter with American reporters and embassy officials.

American officials said they accepted the Soviet contention that the microwaves were aimed at the embassy to jam sophisticated monitoring equipment and not to harm embassy or to harm personnel.

Listening devices on the roof in Moscow are said to have been reported that

they were able to eavesdrop on Soviet officials riding in limousines, and they presumably monitor Soviet frequencies.

Earlier news reports from Moscow noted speculation that the microwaves emissions, which produce low-level electromagnetic radiation of the kind found near radar stations or even radio and television transmitters, were either for recharging listening devices or for picking up conversations from within the embassy.

Two factors have irritated Administration officials and produced diplomatic protests. The first was the possible damage to the health of American personnel from long periods of exposure to the low-level radiation, which is much less dangerous than exposure to X-ray radiation.

The second, according to American officials, was that the Soviet embassy in Washington has operated similar listening devices from the roof of its building without being hampered by microwave jamming.

American officials have insisted that although the Soviet Embassy here has highly sophisticated equipment able to monitor long-distance phone calls and radio signals in the Washington area, no effort has been made to disable it as has allegedly been done in Moscow.

From Nearby Building

According to Administration and Congressional sources, the Russians have been beaming the microwave emissions into the American embassy for 15 years. At first the waves came from a nearby building, but after that structure was torn down, the waves came from across Tchaikovsky Street, the large boulevard the embassy faces.

The embassy is situated in west central Moscow, about 1.5 miles from the Kremlin and two miles from the apartment house where Leonid I. Brezhnev lives.

The level of the radiation has gone up and down through the years, according to the officials.

In telephone conversations today, Foy D. Kohler, who served as envoy from 1962 to 1966, and Jacob D. Beam, the ambassador from 1969 to 1973, said they had lodged protests of their own about the radiation hazards.

Mr. Beam said the late Llewellyn E. Thompson, who served two tours in Moscow, had made similar protests. Mr. Beam said that after his protest the level of radiation had decreased.

Officials said the radiation level had seemed to rise dramatically in the last six months and had led to new discussions with the Russians.

A complicating factor, officials said, was that current ambassador, Walter J. Stoessel Jr., had suffered nausea and bleeding in his eyes, although

officials said, that the illness was directly caused by the microwaves, but there is the possibility.

Because of the sensitive nature of the affair, the Administration has been reluctant to discuss the matter. Officials say that as a result of the latest discussions, the level of radiation has gone wdown.

Doctors Voiced Concern

The issue was apparently raised as a result of concern voiced by United States Government doctors. They said that, because of the possible hazards caused by the microwave radiation, it was vital to install protective screens on embassy windows and to inform the personnel of the risks. Before this was done, the Soviet authorities were informed of American concern.

They were told that unless the emissions stopped, American personnel would be told and this would inevitably become known. Previously, only a few senior embassy officers had known about the waves.

A Soviet-American technical team then inspected the premises but, according to American officials, the microwaves had been turned off and the inspectors were not able to agree on anything significant.

This was followed by the briefing by Mr. Stoessel of embassy personnel, followed by consultations by the embassy doctor with other Americans in Moscow.

Americans were told that although high-level microwave radiation could be dangerous particularly to the reproductive organs and the eyes, there was no conclusive medical evidence that low-level emissions were dangerous.

In the 1960's, the Central Intelligence Agency made special studies on the matter, according to officials, under the heading of Operation Pandora. One of the doctors involved in that study has reportedly gone to inspect the embassy.

Last year, The New York Times reported that the Soviet embassy was able to intercept telephone conversations within the United States. In the wake of the latest protests about the American embassy in Moscow, some officials have reportedly favored retaliating in kind against the Soviet embassy, which is situated on 16th street in downtown Washington. But that idea has been rejected, officials said.